

Agnes J.Vion
30 Midwood Ave.
Nesconset, NY 11767

November 17, 2014

Hon. Patrick R. Vecchio
and Members of the Town Board
Town Hall
99 West Main Street
Smithtown, NY 11787

Dear Supervisor Vecchio and Members of the Town Board:

I am writing in support of the Smithtown Animal Shelter in light of the recent negative allegations. I have been a resident of the Town of Smithtown for 43 years. As an animal lover, I have dealt with the shelter on numerous occasions whether it was to adopt an animal or to seek help with stray animals (mainly cats) in my neighborhood. I have always found the facility to clean, even though the staff quarters are quite cramped. With regard to the complaint about the odor, whenever there are several animals it is impossible to clean up after them immediately. I also love the fact that the cats are free instead of being kept in cages.

A few years ago staff members helped me to capture and ultimately place (by helping me in contacting several animal rescue groups) for adoption a colony of cats that were living in an abandoned house across the street from my house. More recently a stray cat had a litter of kittens in my garage and the staff was helpful in helping me find low-cost neutering and in helping me rehabilitate them for adoption.

The staff at the shelter are very caring of the animals in their care. When my dog died a couple of years ago, they couldn't let me adopt one from the shelter because at the time, none of the dogs got along with cats. At the time I was annoyed, but I realized that the staff was avoiding a possible tragedy, instead of just letting a dog be adopted to get rid of it.

In closing I would like to state that the staff of the animal shelter should be commended, not ostracized for their outstanding work. As an employee of the Town, I am proud to be working with them.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Agnes J. Vion", written in a cursive style.